



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
October 8, 2021  
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room  
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

**Commission Members Present:**

Gloria Tessier	Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Jesse Farrell	Vice Chair, Vadnais Heights (VH)
Paul Duxbury	Board Liaison, White Bear Township (WBT)
Bob Larson	Treasurer, North Oaks (NO)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)

**Commission Members Absent:** Andy Nelson (absent with prior-notice, Lino Lakes)

**Others in attendance:** Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Nick Voss, Dawn Tanner, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO staff); Patricia Orud (NOHOA); Ed Shapland (MWS); Sara Shah (NO City Council).

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
The agenda for the October 8, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to approve the October 8, 2021 TEC agenda, as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**  
The meeting minutes of the September 10, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting were presented for approval. No additions. It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the September 10, 2021 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: all aye, Farrell abstains. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
  - A. **Financial Report for October & Authorization for Payment**  
Belfiori overviewed highlights and line items of the October Finance Report and bills, with staff recommending approval and authorization of payments.  
  
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the October Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
  - B. **VLAWMO October TEC Report to the Board**  
Belfiori gave an overview and highlights of the October Technical Commission Report to the Board of Directors.  
**Discussion:** Shah asked about the staff effort level estimations, and Belfiori answered that it goes with the ebbs and flows with the business needs of VLAWMO and staff time.  
  
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the October Technical Commission Report to the Board for submission and presentation at their October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
  - C. **Consideration of Alternate TEC Meeting Times or Days**  
  
**Discussion:** Farrell noted that while it's plenty easy for him to attend meetings and he appreciates that, he proposed a possible Thursday time slot, or another week day, shying away from Mondays and Fridays. Duxbury noted that a time during the week, other than

Friday or Monday, would work fine. Duxbury proposed a Wednesday meeting at 8:00 am. Tessier, Farrell, and Huntrods echoed this meeting time change would work. Farrell asked if this works for staff. Belfiori asked if a Friday packet day still works for the Commissioners, and all agreed this is still plenty of time.

A motion was made by Huntrods and seconded by Farrell to move the VLAWMO Technical Commission meeting days to the second Wednesday of every month, and the start time to 8:00 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Farrell noted that different meeting quarters could be considered, possibly the Vadnais Heights Commons, or the Council Chambers, remaining at City Hall. The Commissioners agreed that the Council Chambers would be good to plan for the November TEC meeting.

A was motioned made by Farrell and seconded by Larson to amend the previous motion, moving the Technical Commission meeting location from the Lakes Room to the Council Chambers, remaining at the Vadnais Heights City Hall. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

## V. Programs

### A. Education & Outreach

#### 1. October updates

Voss presented and update for municipality MS4 education and outreach materials, to be distributed to them for use, aiding with their SWPPP requirements. Topics include illegal dumping, smart salting. Voss noted that the VLAWMO WAV meeting will take place next week, setting 2022 goals and activities. WBCA will be hosting their UPSTREAM closing celebration on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Lake Care Weekend is slated for October 23-24 for Adopt-A-Drain activities and stormdrain cleaning. Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> is the ceremony for presenting MWS capstone projects for 2022. The VLAWMO October newsletter will also be coming out later today, too.

#### 2. 2021 Watershed Awards

Voss announced that the 2021 Watershed Awards are now open for The Watershed Partner and Watershed Steward Awards. Voss noted that it may be valuable. Voss noted that the nominations are due by Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> for hearing and consideration at the November 10<sup>th</sup> TEC meeting.

## VI. Projects

### A. Wilkinson Lk. BMP/319 Grant Project Update

Tanner noted that staff is still waiting to hear from the MPCA and EPA. Noted the site visit on September 28<sup>th</sup> that was very helpful for the project partners to whittle down project details.

### B. Great River Greening Vadnais-Sucker Park Update

Tanner noted the maintenance agreement is moving forward.

### C. Lambert Lake Meander Updates, Project of the Year

Tanner mentioned that the LL meander is a finalist for BWSR project of the year, and final submissions will take place today.

### D. West Vadnais SLMR

Tanner mentioned that the WV SLMR is available for review and revision, and is on track to go to the October Board meeting for approval. Staff recommends the TEC recommend approval to the Board for acceptance and distribution and publication of the West Vadnais Lake Sustainable Lake Management Report.

A motion was made by Farrell and seconded by Huntrods to recommend approval to the VLAWMO Board for the 2021 West Vadnais Lake SLMR and its publication. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**E. Community Work Days Update**

Tanner gave updates about the various community work day activities.

**F. Carp Project**

Tanner updated that 12 carp tag implants have been implemented.

**VII. Commissioner Reports**

Farrell updated that the Council approved the purchase of a new street sweeper for the City, realizing the importance of that work. Also, the water tower project is up for vote for water tower of the year. Duxbury proposed discussion going back to virtual meetings. Belfiori gave background on the August Board meeting brief, given by VLAWMO's attorney, on virtual meetings.

**VIII. NOHOA**

Orud noted that no major projects are beginning; just fall maintenance and enjoying the beautiful weather.

**IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RCSWCD) Report**

None.

**X. St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS) Report**

None.

**XI. Public Comment**

Shah asked for background for other member cities regarding individual wetland ordinance. Farrell added that he would err on the side of more ambiguity. Belfiori added that this could be a good topic for a future Technical Commission meeting, and expanded on VLAWMO versus municipality roles. Farrell also expanded on the structure of wetland law and all of the different jurisdictions. Voss thanked Commissioner Larson for his help at the Tamarack Nature Center project planting. Corcoran noted that the phase 2 Ditch 14 maintenance project will be going to the Board for approval at their October meeting.

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Board: October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**XIII. Adjourn**

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.